

REPORT

ON

SANITARY CONDITIONS

and PUBLIC HEALTH

OF THE

CHIRBURY RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1913.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report.

The District is purely agricultural except for a little lead and barytes mining in some parts. The population is diminishing slightly.

BIRTH RATE.

The Birth Rate for the year was 15·43. The average for the years 1908—1912 was 20·68.

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate was 13·21. The average for the years 1908—1912 was 12·40. The Death Rate was heavy.

The year was remarkable for the number of deaths amongst aged people. There were 7 deaths of persons above 80 years of age, and 8 deaths of persons between the ages of 70 and 80. Excluding these deaths the Death Rate from what one may call "Preventable Diseases" is very favourable.

INFANTILE DEATH RATE.

Three deaths of children under the age of 12 months took place. This gives a death rate of 80 per 1000. It is only fair to say that two of these deaths were unpreventable. One being a premature infant, only living one day, and the other a child born with a malformation which was incompatible with life.

Whilst on the subject of Infantile Mortality, I am glad to be able to report that a District Nurse has been provided for Chirbury and Marton Parishes, and also I may state that efforts are being made to provide one for part of Worthen Parish. This is encouraging as I have frequently pointed out that the lack of a competent midwife is bound to react unfavourably on the Infantile Mortality.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum is made notifiable.

WATER SUPPLY.

Chirbury has a proper supply which is satisfactory. The Marton scheme has been satisfactorily carried out. Negotiations are still in progress anent the Brockton and Worthen scheme. Outlying farms and cottages have their own supplies which are on the whole satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

This is on the whole good. Choked Drains, etc., are attended to by the Sanitary Inspector as occasion arises.

WATER CLOSETS, PRIVIES, Etc.

These are mostly of the pan or pit midden type. The middens are being gradually replaced by pan closets.

REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

This is in the hands of the occupiers, and is on the whole satisfactory.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

This is quite good considering the character of the neighbourhood. Many of the houses are old and faultily constructed and doubtless do not come up to town requirements. Dampness and defective ventilation is carefully attended to, and I can speak heartily of the good work that has been done during my eight years of office in this respect.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Excepting a small outbreak of Scarlet Fever early in the year the District has been free from any serious prevalence of such diseases. Seven cases occurred in one family, and owing to the impossibility of proper isolation, it was decided to open the Small-pox Hospital at Forden for their accommodation. This was done with the happy result of checking the spread of the disease. *School Masters* are informed of outbreaks, and the affected scholars not allowed to return till freedom from infection is notified.

DISINFECTION.

This is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. I can speak highly of his work in this respect.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This disease is still very ripe in the neighbourhood. Now compulsory notification is in force, isolation and disinfection will become more effective. The Council has purchased a shelter for the use of Tuberculosis patients.

WORKSHOPS, Etc.

These are all of the small type, no large ones employing any number of workpeople being in existence.

MILK SUPPLY.

A register of Milk sellers is kept, and their premises inspected. Dairies are very well kept, and I have been pleased to see that more attention is being paid to the cleanliness and ventilation of cowsheds. In cases of infectious disease occurring in a farm where milk is sold, instructions are given that no milk is to be so sold till freedom from infection is notified.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I do not think that there is any special point to which I should draw your attention.

The provision of one of the water schemes is a great step in advance, and I trust next year to be able to report that the Worthen scheme has been brought to a successful completion.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. WOODS.

March, 1914.

